(b) if so, the steps taken to provide jobs to the unemployed labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that thousands of workers have been rendered jobless due to closure of Dugda-I Plant of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Only 320 persons affected as a result of closure of the plant have been re-assigned alternative job in Dugda-II plant of BCCL itself at present.

[English]

Funds for Handloom Weavers

9. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned funds to Andhra Pradesh Government for providing relief to cyclone affected handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds released so far out of it; and

(c) by what time the remaining Central assistance would be released for further aid to the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Details of Release of Funds to the Andhra Pradesh Government for providing Refief to Cyclone affected Handloom Weavers under Various Schemes is as under :

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Sanctioned	Funds Released (out of 3)	Remarks/release of Remaining Funds
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3-4)
1.	Workshed-cum Housing Scheme	333.92	333.92	--
2.	Market Development Assistance Scheme	300.00	300.00	--
3.	Handloom Dve. Centres and Quality Dyeing Units Scheme	177.12	177.12	--
4.	Project Package Scheme	392.87	196.80	196.07*
5.	Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme	463.00	228.50	234.50*

* The remaining funds would be released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh after release of Central and State share by the State Government, receipt of utilisation certificate and physical progress report

Subsidy on Sericulture

10. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has requested for increase in the subsidy on sericulture;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken to boost the production of silk in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a network of its units for extending the necessary research, extension, infrastructural and training support for development of sericulture in the State. Besides, Assam is one of the 12 non-traditional pilot States covered under the World Bank/SDC assisted National Sericulture Project. Assistance has also been provided for implementation of an action plan for development of silk industry in North-Eastern States including Assam. In additions, the State can also avail of assistance under the on-going approved schemes of CSB.

Value of Rupee

11. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian rupees is weakening by an average 2 per cent per month; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to arrest such a downwards trend ?